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Guernsey's Chief Minister holds talks with William Hague

Guernsey's Chief Minister, Lyndon Trott, has met former Conservative Party Leader and current Shadow Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon William Hague MP, during his latest series of contact meetings in London.

The meeting with Mr Hague and Keith Simpson, MP for mid-Norfolk, a well-respected foreign affairs and defence expert, was part of an ongoing series of meetings with members of the Conservative Foreign Affairs team.

The Chief Minister said: "It has been a pleasure to meet Mr Hague and his colleagues, and I am now reassured that the Conservative Foreign Affairs team has a good understanding of Guernsey and its issues."

With the Conservative team showing a particular interest in China, the Chief Minister was able to share his recent experiences of Shanghai with Mr Hague and Mr Simpson, who were interested to hear about the work being undertaken in preparing Guernsey's Memorandum of Understanding with that city and the recent visit to the Island by Her Excellency Madam Fu Ying, the Chinese Ambassador to the UK.

In addition to an interview with the *Financial Times*, the Chief Minister also briefed members of the Treasury Select Committee, Vince Cable's Liberal Democrat Treasury team and Greg Hands, the Conservative Shadow Treasury Minister, as well other Peers and MPs.

The meeting with Mr Hands, MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, a former derivatives trader and a key member of the Conservative Treasury team, involved a technical briefing on Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) and corporate taxation.

The Chief Minister added: "It was a pleasure to meet with Mr Hands and to have a candid discussion with someone who has such an impressive mastery of the detail.

"I was also delighted to see that Mark Hoban, another member of Mr Osborne's team who we know well and is likely to be given a specific role for Treasury affairs in Brussels under any future Conservative administration."

The Chief Minister said that he had experienced two exceptionally busy days in London.

"These days have built on the briefings we have given to the Conservatives' Shadow Justice and Shadow Treasury teams throughout this year," he said.

Release Ends